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United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

2010 substantive session (22 February-19 March 2010)

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 63/280, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/63/19), decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field, and requested the Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations held its 2010 session at United Nations Headquarters from 22 February to 19 March 2010 and held five formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 212th (opening) meeting, on 22 February, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support delivered statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At its 212th meeting, the Committee elected its officers by acclamation as follows:

Chairperson:
Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Mr. Diego Limeres (Argentina)
Mr. Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada)
Mr. Tetsuya Kimura (Japan)
Mr. Zbigniew Szlek (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Mr. Amr El-Sherbini (Egypt)

C. Agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2010/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Consideration of the draft report by the Working Group of the Whole.
7. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session.
8. Other matters.

7. The Committee also approved its draft programme of work (A/AC.121/2010/L.2).

D. Organization of work

8. Also at its 212th meeting, the Committee decided to establish a working group of the whole, to be chaired by Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly.

9. At its 213th meeting, on 22 February, the Chairperson announced that Vanuatu had become a member of the Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/136. The composition of the Committee at its 2010 session is contained in the annex to the present report. The list of participants at the session is contained in A/AC.121/2010/INF/3. The list of documents for the session is contained in A/AC.121/2010/INF/2.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

10. At its 212th to 215th meetings, on 22 and 23 February, the Committee held a general debate on a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Statements were made by the representatives of:

Algeria, Australia (on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand), Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile (on behalf of the Rio Group), China, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Nepal, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Africa, Spain (on behalf of the European Union, the candidate countries Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia; as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, which aligned themselves with the statement), Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

11. From 24 to 26 February, briefings were provided to the Working Group of the Whole on the following topics: global field support strategy; capability driven approach; safety and security and security risk management model; gender issues and child protection; strengthening the Office of Military Affairs; integrated operational teams and the integrated mission planning process; peacekeeping-peacebuilding nexus; security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; monitoring and surveillance technology; use of military helicopters; and human resources reform.

12. The Working Group of the Whole and its nine sub-working groups met between 8 and 19 March, and concluded their work on the draft recommendations.

Chapter III
Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

13. At its 216th meeting, on 19 March, the Committee considered the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole and decided to include its recommendations in the current report (see paras. 15-228) for consideration by the General Assembly.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session

14. At its 216th meeting, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly as introduced by the Rapporteur of the Committee.

Chapter V
Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

15. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

16. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

17. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of 29 May, as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers as a tribute to all the men and women who have served and continue to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage and to honour the memory of those who have lost their lives in the cause of peace, including those whose lives were lost in the earthquake in Haiti on 12 January 2010.

18. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations. Thus, the Special Committee — as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly — recalls that its recommendations and conclusions reflect, first and foremost, its unique peacekeeping expertise.

19. Noting the sustained surge in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to effectively maintain international peace and security. This calls for, inter alia, an improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

20. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be the subject of a thorough consideration in the Special Committee.

21. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the primary responsibility of the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security.

B. Guiding principles, definition and implementation of mandates

22. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

23. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

24. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

25. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity between mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

26. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter.

27. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Restructuring of peacekeeping

28. The Special Committee encourages the continuation and finalization of the restructuring of the United Nations Headquarters and further intends to continue following up the steps that have already been taken in this regard. The Special Committee takes note of the recent report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the Office of Military Affairs (A/64/572 and Corr.1) and stresses the need for greater involvement of troop- and police-contributing countries in early planning and monitoring of the missions in which they are deployed.

29. The Special Committee, noting the efforts made by the Secretariat to improve communications with Member States and particularly the troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries, stresses that the success of the restructuring hinges upon the principles of unity of command and integration of efforts at all levels, in the field and at Headquarters. However, the Special Committee expresses regret that its request for a report on the implementation of the integrated operational teams contained in its 2009 report (A/63/19, para. 33) has not been met. In particular, there is still a need for clarification regarding the roles, functions and composition of the integrated operational teams, including the division of labour and responsibilities within the Secretariat. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to clarify the coordination and reporting mechanisms within the Secretariat for integrated operational teams to ensure consistency and complementarity of efforts. In this regards, the Special Committee reiterates its request to provide a report on the implementation of the integrated operational teams, as soon as possible, and not later than the end of 2010.

30. The Special Committee notes that in recent years the number of complex peacekeeping operations has increased and, as a consequence, the Security Council has mandated peacekeeping operations that have included, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, a number of other activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of effective Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support that are efficiently structured and adequately staffed and stresses that effective coordination between DPKO and DFS must lead to a more efficient oversight and a better reactivity to changes in the field.

31. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of preserving unity of command in missions at all levels as well as coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including at Headquarters and welcomes the initiatives outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/63/702 and Corr.1).

D. Safety and security

32. The Special Committee condemns, in the strongest terms, the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence against such personnel and recognizes that they constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations. The Special Committee also condemns restrictions in any form on the freedom of movement of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and assets within the mandate, in particular restrictions in respect of medical evacuation. The Special Committee expresses concerns about the security threats and targeted attacks against United

Nations peacekeepers in many peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretary-General to take all measures deemed necessary to strengthen United Nations field security arrangements and improve the safety and security of all military contingents, police officers, military observers and especially unarmed personnel.

33. The Special Committee in particular condemns, in the strongest terms, targeted attacks against United Nations personnel and all criminal acts against such personnel, including carjacking. It also finds totally unacceptable any attempts to seize or destroy United Nations and contingent-owned property. The Special Committee stresses the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of United Nations peacekeeping personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions.

34. The Special Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel and the Optional Protocol thereto. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82, in particular its recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and host countries.

35. The Special Committee takes note of progress made to date in the development of the Joint Operations Centres and Joint Mission Analysis Centres in field missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee underlines the importance of continued efforts to make the Joint Operations Centre and the Joint Mission Analysis Centres fully effective and requests the Secretariat to submit a progress report for its consideration during the 2011 regular session. Furthermore, the Special Committee requests further information regarding the general framework that has presided over formulating the draft guidelines for Joint Operations Centres and the Joint Mission Analysis Centres and requests the Secretariat to brief the Member States on these documents.

36. The Special Committee reiterates its request concerning the establishment of an effective mechanism for periodic risk analysis in peacekeeping missions and at Headquarters, and that relevant information be shared with troop- and police-contributing countries on a regular basis. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the launch of an initiative by United Nations civilian security, military and police components at Headquarters and in the field, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security, to adopt common threat assessment and risk mitigation methodologies. The Special Committee requests that the details of the initiative be shared with Member States as soon as possible.

37. The Special Committee reiterates its request regarding the involvement of Member States in United Nations boards of inquiry, except for misconduct cases, where relevant memorandums of understanding will apply. The Special Committee requests continuation of the practice of constant communication with concerned Member States whenever there is an incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively affects operational effectiveness or results in serious injury to or the

death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, until the conclusion of the investigation of the incident. The Special Committee urges that the findings of boards of inquiry on serious injury or death be immediately communicated to the concerned Member States, including troop-contributing countries, as appropriate, and that lessons learned from such incidents, and field-risk assessments, be shared with all Member States.

38. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly before the 2011 substantive session of the Special Committee for its consideration a comprehensive report on all the processes involved in the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against deployed United Nations peacekeepers, including advice on the feasibility of applying the United Nations investigative mechanism, provided for in a revised model memorandum of understanding endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 61/267 B, with respect to such crimes.

39. The Special Committee stresses that any information about an occurrence in the United Nations missions involving sickness, injury or death of a peacekeeper should be brought to the notice of the Permanent Mission of the concerned Member State in a detailed and timely manner. In this regard, the situation centre of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is asked to bring to the notice of the concerned State information as soon as possible upon the occurrence of the incident.

40. The Special Committee notes with concern that some deployed troop formations are being stretched to cover geographic areas that exceed their capacities. Such practices not only threaten the safety and security of these troops, but also adversely affect their performance, discipline, command and control and capacity to implement the mandate. In this regard, the Special Committee urges that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations ensure that United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation and deployment arrangements. Significant adjustments/changes to the original concept of operations, rules of engagement or force requirements should be done with the consent of the troop-contributing countries.

41. The Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretariat to present a thorough policy for screening and verification before hiring local security personnel, which includes, inter alia, background checks on any criminal and human rights violations of the candidates, as well as links to security companies.

42. The Special Committee reiterates its request that clear guidelines and procedures be put in place to facilitate information-sharing regarding safety and security issues as well as security management in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls paragraph 41 of its 2009 report (A/63/19) and requests that detailed information on the security risk management model developed by the Inter-Agency Security Management Network be made available to the Member States along with the methodology of implementation of the policy issued in May 2008. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide the threat assessment in the existing missions on a regular basis during the scheduled troop-contributing country meetings.

43. The Special Committee notes the progress made towards a wider and systemic use of technology in peacekeeping operations. However, the Special Committee believes further effort in this direction is required. In this regard, the Special

Committee requests the Secretariat to continue its work towards the finalization of the draft policy for the use of monitoring and surveillance technology in the field missions, and looks forward to a report on this subject within six months of the issuance of this Committee's 2010 report. The Special Committee looks forward to considering the legal, operational, technical and financial considerations contained in the report and especially the element of the consent of the countries concerned with regard to the application of such means in the field.

44. The Special Committee reiterates the need to further improve the joint standard operating procedures and other relevant policies to enhance the existing mechanism in the Secretariat and the field to manage crisis situations in a well-coordinated and effective manner. In this regard it is suggested that, whenever possible, planned crisis response exercises be introduced in the missions and at Headquarters.

45. The Special Committee underlines the importance it places on the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field and is gravely concerned about the loss of precious human lives as a result of the negligence and incompetence of medical staff. The Special Committee emphasizes the responsibility of the United Nations to ensure that medical personnel assigned in mission areas are qualified to provide immediate and proper medical attention to peacekeepers and to hold them accountable. As requested in paragraph 45 of its previous report (A/63/19), the Special Committee reminds the Secretariat to review, and report back to Member States at the earliest opportunity before the next session on, its oversight structure and procedures at the Secretariat and in the field to ensure proper supervision and support of the four levels of medical support to United Nations missions.

46. The Special Committee takes note of the information provided under item 9 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/573/Add.1). The Special Committee reiterates its original request that the liaison arrangements of United Nations field operations, which are to maintain contact with the parties concerned, should be improved at appropriate levels, especially tactical and operational levels in the field, so as to establish effective immediate responses to safety and security issues as required. In this regard, the Special Committee looks forward to being apprised about the procedures under consideration and the details of the model draft agreement being prepared.

47. The Special Committee underlines the importance of training and providing peacekeeping personnel with adequate equipment to fulfil the mandate in accordance with United Nations standards as key factors in preventing casualties and in ensuring the safety of peacekeepers. In this regard, the Special Committee underlines the respective roles of the United Nations Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries.

E. Conduct and discipline

48. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee emphasizes that misconduct is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mandates, in particular with respect to the relations between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and the population of host countries. The

prevention of any acts of misconduct and the maintenance of discipline of United Nations peacekeeping personnel is a responsibility of managers and commanders at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the leadership of managers and commanders is vital in the prevention of misconduct.

49. The Special Committee reaffirms that any kind of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel is detrimental to the missions and to the image of the Organization, and has adverse effects on the population of the host countries. The Special Committee re-emphasizes the principle that the same standards of conduct must be applied to all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel without exception. Violations of these standards will result in appropriate action within the authority of the Secretary-General, while criminal and disciplinary responsibility in respect of members of national contingents depends on the national law of the Member State. The Special Committee affirms that all peacekeeping personnel must be informed of and adhere to all applicable rules, regulations, provisions and guidelines provided by the United Nations for peacekeepers, as well as to national laws and regulations. All acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished without delay in accordance with due process of law as well as with memorandums of understanding that have been concluded between the United Nations and Member States.

50. The Special Committee reiterates that troop-contributing countries bear the primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents deployed in peacekeeping missions.

51. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations take appropriate measures to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are, ultimately, legally unproven.

52. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse should be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee notes with appreciation that accountability compacts will be extended to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and heads of mission by mid-2010. The Special Committee encourages managers and commanders to continue to facilitate the investigations within their existing responsibilities. The Special Committee encourages Member States and the Secretariat, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to address the issues of accountability within their respective purviews.

53. The Special Committee notes with satisfaction that the provisions contained in the revised memorandum of understanding between troop-contributing countries and the United Nations are now in force for all new memorandums of understanding and urges troop-contributing countries that have not yet done so to expeditiously incorporate the provisions of the revised model memorandum of understanding into their existing memorandums of understanding. The Special Committee, bearing in mind the responsibility for investigating allegations of misconduct involving

members of military contingents as provided for by the revised model memorandum of understanding, notes the feedback received from Member States on disciplinary actions taken at the national level with respect to substantiated cases of misconduct. The Special Committee calls on Member States to increase these efforts so as to provide to the Secretariat all the required information in a timely manner.

54. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 53 of its previous report (A/63/19), takes note of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/573/Add.1) and takes note with appreciation of the efforts by the Department of Field Support regarding drafting guidance for field missions concerning the implementation of the revised model memorandum of understanding.

55. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the establishment, in conformity with paragraph 53 of General Assembly resolution 62/111 B, of a website dedicated to issues and policies on conduct and discipline and containing statistical information, to be updated regularly. The Special Committee also notes that that website will help the Department of Field Support to evaluate progress and will assist Member States to gain a better understanding of the policies of the United Nations in dealing with conduct and discipline issues.

56. The Special Committee notes with concern that Member States are not being notified of allegations of an act of misconduct or serious misconduct against uniformed personnel with the status of experts on mission in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to notify Member States of any such allegations without delay. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to explore ways to improve the notification process in cases of misconduct or serious misconduct of uniformed personnel with the status of experts on mission in peacekeeping operations.

57. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters and the conduct and discipline teams in the field.

58. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen investigations through the Office of Internal Oversight Services and looks forward to the outcome of the General Assembly deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening investigations (A/62/582 and Corr.1).

59. The Special Committee underlines the importance of continued and strengthened efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Stressing the importance of eliminating all forms of misconduct, the Special Committee remains concerned about new cases of misconduct reported, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and about the number of outstanding allegations still awaiting investigation, and encourages continued efforts to address this backlog, in accordance, where applicable, with the new model memorandum of understanding. The Special Committee welcomes progress made towards the elimination and prevention of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee, while noting the continuing decline in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, regrets that the number of the most egregious allegations has not decreased, and reiterates its suggestion that in future it would be useful for such data to be disaggregated according to the type of serious misconduct alleged, to permit a deeper analysis of the occurrences of sexual exploitation and abuse.

60. The Special Committee recalls its 2006 report (A/60/19/Rev.1), in paragraph 79 of which it recommended transmitting the report of the Group of Legal Experts appointed in October 2005 to the Sixth Committee for further examination of issues related to the criminal accountability of United Nations staff and experts on mission. It notes the ongoing work of the Sixth Committee, formalized in April 2007 through the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee, pursuant to resolution 61/29. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to make progress on these issues and looks forward to a status report on the deliberations of the Sixth Committee with regard to the report of the Group of Legal Experts, before its next substantive session.

61. The Special Committee continues to encourage further strengthening of cooperation and coordination among the Conduct and Discipline Unit at United Nations Headquarters; its teams in the field; the Office of Internal Oversight Services; and other relevant entities, both at Headquarters and in the field.

62. The Special Committee reaffirms the importance of welfare and recreation for the personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, including non-contingent personnel, bearing in mind that welfare and recreation also contribute to strengthening morale and discipline. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role of troop- and police-contributing countries in the welfare and recreation of contingent personnel. The Special Committee believes that the provision of facilities related to welfare and recreation should be adequately prioritized during the establishment of peacekeeping missions. In this regard, the Special Committee expresses its concern with deficiencies faced by the majority of missions in the area of welfare and recreation, as stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/675 and Corr.1) and looks forward to the consideration by the Fifth Committee of the report and its recommendations.

63. The Special Committee recalls the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/214 containing the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/176) and the progress made so far, and calls for the continued implementation of the strategy. The Special Committee also welcomes the publication of the "Sexual exploitation and abuse victim assistance guide: establishing country-based mechanisms for assisting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations/non-governmental/intergovernmental organization staff and related personnel" in April 2009. The Special Committee commends the efforts of peacekeeping missions to implement the strategy, while emphasizing the importance of coordination with humanitarian and development partners in the field. The Special Committee requests an update on progress by 2011.

F. Strengthening operational capacity

1. General

64. The Special Committee believes that a sound interaction and better understanding must be maintained between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop-contributing countries to devise clear, unambiguous and achievable mandates and to generate and mobilize the necessary political, human, financial and

logistical resources and information capacity to achieve the mandates. The Special Committee recalls the Presidential Statement of 5 August 2009 (S/PRST/2009/24) and welcomes practical steps taken by the Security Council and its Working Group to deepen engagement with troop- and police-contributing countries in the early phase of mandate drafting and throughout mission deployment.

65. The Special Committee recognizes the necessity to intensify dialogue among Member States and the Secretariat, including in this forum, on ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions, including by addressing the requirement for peacekeeping missions to be able to deter, through the posture they adopt and actions they take, threats to the implementation of mandates, safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, and ongoing peace processes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles outlined in section V.B of the present report.

66. The Special Committee is of the opinion that there should be adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate guidelines for peacekeeping missions so that they are able to carry out all their mandated tasks.

67. The Special Committee is of the view that, whenever the mandate of a mission is changed or amended, the Secretariat should ensure, at the earliest opportunity, that the operational documents (including concept of operations and rules of engagement) conform with the changed mandate. The Special Committee reaffirms that the views of concerned troop- and police-contributing countries should be given due consideration during this process.

68. The Special Committee strongly recommends that the Security Council be fully advised on the availability of the operational and logistical capabilities which would be necessary for the success of a peacekeeping operation, prior to making a decision on a new or major change to an existing mandate.

69. The Special Committee takes note of the work of the Secretariat on developing a comprehensive capability-driven approach with the aim of improving overall performance in the field. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue its work in this regard, in close cooperation with troop- and police-contributing countries and to report back to the Committee on progress made.

2. Military capacities

70. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/573/Add.1), particularly in respect of the wording formulated in paragraph 18 of the matrix. The Committee further reiterates the need for the Secretariat to ensure timeliness and transparency in apprising all troop-contributing countries in the recruitment of senior positions in the Office of Military Affairs and the head and deputy head of the military component in the field missions, and requests that Member States be kept informed of the progress in recruitment in a timely fashion.

71. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs. The Special Committee stresses that the strengthening must aim to further enhance the ability of the Office of Military Affairs to support United Nations peacekeeping operations, through better monitoring of operations, and by providing strategic-level military planning. The Special Committee takes note of the set-up of a limited start-up and surge capacity to accompany efficiently the critical phases of peacekeeping missions

and the establishment of an assessment team to provide strategic situational assessments and periodic briefings on current and potential peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note of the need for supplementing professional military staff with administrative support. The Special Committee further underlines the need for an institutional memory in the Office of Military Affairs, using existing resources through documentation and databases in order to ensure continuity and retention of lessons learned. The Special Committee requests a further evaluation of the functioning of the Office of Military Affairs for the next substantive session of the Committee.

72. The Special Committee notes with serious concern that the comprehensive report on the current status and developments in the area of aviation safety in United Nations peacekeeping, including administrative and safety arrangements related to the management and use of military utility helicopters in peacekeeping missions, called for in paragraph 71 of its 2009 report (A/63/19), has not been carried out. Further, the Special Committee finds no substantive basis in the reasons provided in A/64/637 for deferring the submission of the report and requests the Secretary-General to provide the report as a matter of priority, but no later than 1 June 2010.

73. The Special Committee shares the concern expressed by the Secretary-General (A/64/573) with regard to the negative impact that the absence of crucial assets, including military utility helicopters, is having on the mobility of personnel and, as a result, on the ability of the missions to successfully carry out their mandates. Therefore, the Special Committee recognizes the need for increased contributions by troop-contributing countries in terms of military utility helicopters and for the review of the reimbursement system, taking into account relevant conclusions in the report of the Secretary-General mentioned in paragraph 72 above.

74. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries to new contributors and the return of former contributors. The Special Committee recommends that, in order to overcome shortfalls in the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability faced by some troop- and police-contributing countries, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to facilitate various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States, multilateral and bilateral arrangements. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to build on the success of existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives in order to encourage Member States to develop mutually beneficial cooperation agreements to enlarge the base of troop-contributing countries.

75. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to undertake forward-looking analyses of the willingness and readiness of countries to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to develop outreach strategies to build deeper contacts and longer-term relationships with current or potential contributing countries. In this regard, the Special Committee, in order to expand the available pool of capabilities, recommends that coordinated initiatives be taken to reach out to new contributors, that former and existing contributors be encouraged to contribute further and that support to emerging contributors be provided.

76. The Special Committee encourages the United Nations Secretariat to play a significant role in improving coordination among capacity-building efforts by various regional, multilateral and bilateral actors.

77. The Special Committee notes with concern the gap between peacekeeping mandates and the equipment available to missions and recognizes that existing shortages must be overcome in order to properly carry out increasingly complex mandated tasks. In this regard, the Special Committee looks forward to the continuation of the discussion within the 2011 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment.

3. United Nations police capacities

78. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the review of the Police Division carried out since its 2008 report (A/62/19). The Committee notes the sustained increase of the police dimension in a number of missions and stresses the importance of maintaining an appropriate support capacity at Headquarters to ensure an adequate level of oversight and guidance to the field, and to work closely with Integrated Training Service on police training issues. The Committee acknowledges the remaining gaps in the capacities of the Police Division, and stresses further the importance of addressing them in a timely manner, in order to ensure efficiency and transparency in the work of the Police Division.

79. The Special Committee recognizes the need to recruit qualified personnel for police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and encourages the Secretariat to improve procedures and guidance, in close cooperation with contributing countries, for timely, effective and transparent evaluation and recruitment of candidates. The Special Committee is of the view that the police should be matched with positions that make the best use of their specific areas of expertise.

80. The Special Committee takes note of the approval of the revised policy on formed police units in United Nations peacekeeping operations and encourages the Secretariat to implement this policy in order to ensure efficient and effective use of formed police units in the conduct of their mandated tasks.

81. The Special Committee recognizes the growing need to build institutional police capacity in post-conflict environments, and welcomes the ongoing work by Member States, Interpol and the Secretariat.

4. Doctrine and terminology

82. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and as such a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote common approaches and cooperation. The Special Committee believes that further work on documents related to United Nations peacekeeping should take due account of the views of Member States and be the subject of a thorough and comprehensive consideration in the Special Committee.

G. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

1. General

83. The Special Committee takes note of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support non-paper entitled "A New Partnership Agenda: Charting the New Horizon for United Nations peacekeeping". The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to further engage with Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries, on matters relating to peacekeeping operations.

84. The Special Committee stresses that sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development needs to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflict.

85. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations need to be complemented with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the affected populations, including quick implementation of highly effective and visible projects that help to create jobs and deliver basic social services in the post-conflict phase. Such activities need to be carried out in full acknowledgement of the primary responsibility of the Governments of the host countries to provide for their citizens, and taking care not to undermine efforts aimed at building the capacity of host Governments to fulfil this role.

86. The Special Committee stresses that the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with national authorities, should develop and engage in appropriate coordination mechanisms, which should focus on immediate needs as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. The Special Committee recognizes that better coordination with United Nations country teams and the various development actors is of paramount importance to ensure greater efficiency in development efforts and address urgent development problems.

87. The Special Committee reiterates that there is no one-size-fits-all model for multidimensional peacekeeping operations and that each mission should take into account the needs of the country concerned. Such needs should be ascertained at the earliest possible stages of mission planning.

88. The Special Committee stresses the need to strengthen the coordination between the mission, the United Nations country team and other United Nations bodies, including in addressing unexpected emergencies, such as natural and man-made disasters.

89. The Special Committee welcomes the important work done by peacekeeping missions in support of urgent needs of the countries where they operate and encourages the missions, within their mandates, to make full use of all existing means and capabilities.

2. Peacebuilding issues and the Peacebuilding Commission

90. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of the recurrence of armed conflicts, and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The

Special Committee underlines the importance of effective coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, the Department of Political Affairs, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and non-United Nations partners in the planning and implementation of peacebuilding efforts, building on their respective strengths, particularly at the early stage of United Nations engagement in post-conflict situations. To help achieve this, the Special Committee emphasizes the need for a coordinated strategic assessment and planning process for peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities in order to ensure an integrated and coherent approach to post-conflict peacebuilding and sustainable peace.

91. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38), and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peacebuilding elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase and to prevent the recurrence or continuation of armed conflict. The Special Committee also notes the statement by the President of the Security Council on 22 July 2009 (S/PRST/2009/23) with regard to the importance of early consideration of peacebuilding activities in the Council's own deliberations and ensuring coherence between peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development to achieve an early and effective response to post-conflict situations. The Special Committee stresses the importance of peacebuilding activities being explicitly defined and clearly identified in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities.

92. The Special Committee underlines the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are integrated with host-country strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership.

93. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, taking into account the work of relevant United Nations bodies and organs such as the Peacebuilding Commission as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office, further explore opportunities for partnerships that support its operations.

94. The Special Committee underlines the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in developing, in consultation with national Governments, integrated peacebuilding strategies and marshalling resources for their implementation, as well as its efforts to ensure fulfilment of mutual commitments on the part of relevant stakeholders, enhance the coordination of relevant actors on the ground and promote dialogue on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues and lessons learned from past experience. The Special Committee takes note of the role that the Peacebuilding Support Office should play in promoting greater coherence and synergies between the different parts of the United Nations system and other relevant actors outside the United Nations system. The Special Committee recommends that the Peacebuilding Commission with the support of the Peacebuilding Support Office further explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions, as well as regional arrangements.

95. While noting that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in the lead on all operational matters relating to the planning and conduct of integrated peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee notes the role of the Peacebuilding

Commission in providing timely advice when requested on mandated peacebuilding activities undertaken by United Nations peacekeeping operations, in particular by ensuring that those activities are sustainable and in conformity with longer-term peacebuilding strategies and engagement. The Special Committee looks forward to the outcome of the review of the arrangements set out in the founding resolutions of the Peacebuilding Commission (1645 (2005) and 60/180).

96. The Special Committee takes note of the Presidential Statement of 12 February 2010 (S/PRST/2010/2) and notes the efforts of the Security Council to improve its practices in order to ensure a successful transition from a peacekeeping operation to other configurations of United Nations presence. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of generating lessons learned on the transition from peacekeeping operations and ensuring these are taken into account in future transitions. In this regard, the Special Committee notes the efforts by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure that lessons learned from experience gained in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping operations to integrated peacebuilding offices are captured.

97. The Special Committee notes the important role that peacekeeping missions play in peacebuilding, both supporting critical tasks and enabling others so as to help countries establish the foundations of peace, reduce the risk of relapse into conflict and establish conditions for recovery and development. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of effective partnerships and early investments in economic recovery, political processes and national institutions in order to build on and consolidate the gains achieved by peacekeeping.

98. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to brief it at its next session on what steps are being taken to make the early peacebuilding roles of peacekeeping missions more effective, including how this role may support critical socio-economic needs.

99. The Special Committee recognizes the need to support national Governments in the promotion of critical recovery and peacebuilding in immediate post-conflict environments. The Special Committee looks forward to the development of a strategy for critical early peacebuilding tasks undertaken by peacekeepers being developed by the Secretariat, and calls for Member States to be consulted throughout the process. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for early peacebuilding tasks to contribute to longer-term peacebuilding and sustainable development.

100. The Special Committee underlines the need to support national Governments in the promotion of critical recovery and peacebuilding in immediate post-conflict environments. In this respect, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of the timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304).

101. The Special Committee recognizes that national ownership remains the fundamental principle behind which international engagement should align. Support to countries emerging from conflict requires a focus on ensuring that their Governments have the capacities they require. The Special Committee takes note of the intention of the Secretary-General to conduct a "Review of international civilian capacities" in support of national capacities for peacebuilding. The Special

Committee emphasizes that the review should assist in broadening and deepening the pool of experts, giving particular attention to mobilizing capacities from developing countries and among women.

102. The Special Committee underlines the importance of the Integrated Mission Planning Process and the Integrated Strategic Framework as mechanisms to help coordinate and prioritize the activities undertaken by the United Nations, and the need for all actors engaged in peacekeeping and related peacebuilding efforts to coordinate closely and in particular with host countries.

103. The Special Committee stresses the important role that the United Nations can play in helping national authorities to develop coherent peacebuilding strategies and in helping to mobilize international support for them.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

104. The Special Committee stresses that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are crucial components of peacekeeping operations and longer-term peacebuilding and that their success depends upon the political will and concerted effort of all parties. It is crucial, therefore, that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration are firmly established within a political process and that all actors are prepared for a multi-year programme. The Special Committee recognizes that the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is an evolving field and that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes should be tailored to national contexts to ensure consistency with national strategies and being mindful of the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and their dependants. The Special Committee asks the Secretariat to provide a dedicated meeting before the end of 2010 to clarify the relationship between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

105. The Special Committee notes that the study on second-generation disarmament, demobilization and reintegration will soon be published and looks forward to examining its content at its next session.

106. The Special Committee stresses that the civilian reintegration of ex-combatants continues to pose particular challenges, requiring concerted efforts to help rapidly jump-start the economy in order to create employment opportunities for ex-combatants and the wider community. As a result, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to conduct a thorough review within the next year on how the United Nations approaches the issue, and make the appropriate linkages with the wider issues of the return and reintegration of the displaced, and economic recovery, ensuring that they are consistent with national priorities.

4. Security sector reform

107. The Special Committee notes that the General Assembly has a relevant role to play in the development of an overarching United Nations approach to security sector reform; the Special Committee, in particular, is able to make a significant contribution in the area of security sector reform in United Nations peacekeeping.

108. The Special Committee stresses that security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law and should contribute to the overall strengthening of United Nations rule of law activities in peacekeeping operations, taking into account that United Nations activities and structures should not be

duplicative. The Special Committee underlines the importance of coordination to ensure consistency and coherence in the United Nations and encourages such coordination to continue both in Headquarters and in the field, notably through field mechanisms for the implementation of Security Sector Reform. The Special Committee takes note of the establishment of a security sector reform Unit within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions. The Special Committee takes note of the African Union/United Nations partnership on security sector reform and the emerging consultations with other regional organizations. The Special Committee further requests periodic briefings on the work of the Unit and its capacities.

109. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the efforts of the Security Sector Reform Unit and of the work being done in its engagement with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. The Special Committee takes note of the increasing demand on the Unit for supporting, inter alia, peacekeeping missions, special political missions and regional organizations, including partnerships in security sector reform such as the African Union/United Nations partnership.

110. The Special Committee underlines the fact that security sector reform is a nationally owned process and that the engagement of the United Nations in providing assistance for security sector reform through peacekeeping missions should be undertaken at the request of the host country, and that such assistance should be rooted in its particular needs and conditions. It is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities for security sector reform. The Special Committee recognizes the important role that the United Nations, in close cooperation with bilateral and regional arrangements, can play in the provision of technical assistance to State authorities, where requested and based on the specific needs, in their efforts to take forward areas including national security sector strategies; security sector legislation; security sector reviews; national security sector development plans; national dialogue on security sector reform; national management and oversight capacities, as well as national coordination bodies for security sector reform, taking consideration of other areas as requested by the host country. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to elaborate guidelines, in consultation with Member States, and stresses the importance of lessons learned and best practices. The Special Committee requests the Security Sector Reform Unit to continue to provide briefings on its activities, in particular the support provided to missions in the field.

111. The Special Committee stresses that the sustainability of security sector reform depends on national ownership and the sustained support of the international community, in particular bilateral donors. The United Nations and the international community should avoid imposing external models of security sector reform and concentrate on strengthening the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement security sector reform through inclusive consultation processes at all stages. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations approach to security sector reform must be flexible, adaptable and tailored to the country concerned. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes.

112. The Special Committee recognizes and encourages the continued assistance and advice of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to United Nations peacekeeping and special political missions. For delivering this assistance, the Special Committee reaffirms its support to the development of a United Nations roster of senior security sector reform experts. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the establishment of the first roster of security sector reform experts and underlines the need for it to adequately reflect the capacities in developing countries. The Special Committee requests that a briefing on the use of the roster be provided before its 2011 session.

113. The Special Committee underlines the importance of security sector reform training and capacity-building, where mandated, and welcomes efforts in this regard by numerous Member States and through international organizations.

5. Rule of law

114. The Special Committee recognizes that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment requires that the causes of the conflict be addressed and that national and local rule of law capacities be assessed, restored and enhanced, as appropriate, from the beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls the importance of respect for the rule of law as a vital contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity.

115. The Special Committee reiterates the need for greater clarity and specificity in United Nations peacekeeping mandates on rule of law issues and requests that, where mandated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to ensure that the rule of law and transitional justice are integrated into the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations. Such a mandate should be fully implemented and ensure national ownership, particularly in respect of support and assistance in building national capacity.

116. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of holistic and integrated rule of law assistance being provided to host countries from the very outset of the establishment of new peacekeeping missions and, in this regard, urges the Secretariat to implement measures to ensure that United Nations staff are made available to implement fully mandates related to the rule of law throughout the life of the mission, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 63/250 and 61/279.

117. The Special Committee notes the importance on the ongoing development of guidance material for operational rule of law issues, and requests the Secretariat to brief Member States whenever such development of material is initiated and to provide regular information on progress.

118. The Special Committee recognizes the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as a lead entity where mandated in peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee reiterates the need to ensure cooperation and coordination among all relevant United Nations actors, including through the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, in order to ensure a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to the rule of law. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to provide a briefing on the steps being undertaken in this regard, taking into consideration respective roles and responsibilities.

119. The Special Committee recalls paragraph 104 of its 2009 report (A/63/19) and reiterates its request to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to include in its next annual report an assessment on how the creation of that office has contributed to closer coherence and synergies among its own sections and between other United Nations actors to deliver rule of law mandates more effectively, rather than a description of all its activities.

120. The Special Committee, recalling paragraphs 99 and 105 of its 2009 report, recognizes the growing demand for police, rule of law, security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration functions within peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee calls on the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to consider ways to provide adequate rule of law capacities, including in the field, through, inter alia, use of rosters of civilian experts, at the request of the host country and in close coordination with existing host countries' capabilities, with a view to building national capacities. The Special Committee recognizes the need to include justice- and corrections-specific components to deploy in close coordination with the Standing Police Capacity.

121. The Special Committee notes the important steps that have been taken over the past year to increase the attention to and resources available for corrections work in peacekeeping operations, where mandated, in close cooperation with the authorities of the host country. Specifically, the Committee recognizes the importance of further expanding the number of countries that contribute corrections officers to enable the Secretariat to respond to emerging situations on the ground.

122. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the development of the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators Instrument and the completion of pilot-phases. The Special Committee requests a briefing by the Secretariat on how these indicators were developed, and further asks for a progress report on how they will contribute to strengthening the rule of law in peacekeeping contexts.

6. Gender and peacekeeping

123. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring full and effective implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), on women and peace and security, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly 61/143, 63/155 and 64/137, on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Special Committee appreciates the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop gender guidelines for military personnel in peacekeeping operations to facilitate the implementation of the aforementioned resolutions, and encourages the rapid dissemination of and effective compliance with these guidelines. The Special Committee notes the importance of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2010 on women and peace and security and looks forward to the global indicators to assist in the implementation of that resolution.

124. The Special Committee continues to underline the gravity of all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stresses the importance of addressing, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of all victims of such acts. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue the systematic inclusion in the written reports of the Secretary-General on situations of which the Security Council is seized, observations and

recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls.

125. The Special Committee acknowledges the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, including at the decision-making level. The Special Committee reiterates its concern at the low proportion of women among United Nations peacekeeping staff at Headquarters and in the field. In this regard, the Special Committee continues to urge the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States to take all measures to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations to promote gender equality and empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations. In particular, the Special Committee calls upon Member States to continue to nominate more women.

126. The Special Committee welcomes General Assembly resolution 63/311, in particular the provision on the comprehensive proposal for the creation of a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women and its function to lead and coordinate United Nations system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations entities in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work in a cooperative manner with them and the new composite entity, when it becomes functional, in order to guarantee the necessary coordination in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through, inter alia, the promotion of the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

127. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a gender training strategy and requests its immediate finalization and expeditious implementation. The Special Committee calls for the continued implementation and promotion of gender perspectives in multidimensional peacekeeping activities, including through the work of a gender trainer in the headquarters and the deployment of gender advisers in the field. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to update training programmes for military, police and civilian peacekeeping personnel to ensure they include operational guidance to protect women and girls from sexual violence. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with other United Nations actors in identifying best practices for peacekeeping personnel to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

128. The Special Committee appreciates the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict and acknowledges the importance of the mandate of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General to provide leadership and coordination on addressing sexual violence in conflict. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions to coordinate closely with the Special Representative in support of the mandate.

7. Children and peacekeeping

129. The Special Committee recognizes the effort undertaken by the Secretariat on the issue of children and peacekeeping and reaffirms General Assembly resolutions 62/140 and 63/241 and Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004), 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). The Special Committee recommends the inclusion, where appropriate, of specific child protection provisions in peacekeeping mandates and encourages the deployment of child protection advisers in relevant peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in mainstreaming child protection into peacekeeping missions with the adoption of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Policy Directive on Mainstreaming the Protection, Rights and Well-being of Children Affected by Armed Conflict. The Special Committee stresses the need for continued collaboration between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to ensure effective child protection. The Special Committee looks forward to the early development of the policy implementation plan, including training programmes and materials, which will be critical to ensuring that there is an effective and comprehensive response, including preventive measures, with respect to child protection, and requests a briefing during the coming year on the policy implementation plan.

130. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 113 of its previous report (A/63/19), appreciates the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children on 1 May 2009. The Special Committee underscores the need to ensure coordination and cooperation among the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict, including through the designated focal point within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to further the commitment and actions of peacekeeping in the area of child protection.

131. The Special Committee emphasizes the important role of United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions, within their respective mandates, in supporting the implementation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict as foreseen in Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), in close consultation with the countries concerned. The Special Committee recognizes the important role of relevant United Nations bodies and civil society actors in this regard.

8. HIV and other health-related issues and peacekeeping

132. The Special Committee notes with concern that health-related issues, including cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, remain the leading cause of fatalities in the field.

133. The Special Committee reiterates its belief that the United Nations should set the highest possible medical standards in protecting peacekeepers in the field from infectious diseases and protecting both peacekeepers and the local population from HIV/AIDS. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the important work undertaken by HIV/AIDS advisers and focal points in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee underlines the responsibility of troop-contributing countries to ensure appropriate medical examination and clearance of all United Nations personnel from national contingents in accordance with the

medical guidelines for peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries to strengthen their efforts to harmonize predeployment and in-country awareness programmes, and to ensure the strict application of United Nations guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that preclude deployment. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of training all United Nations peacekeeping personnel on medical risks in the mission area in accordance with the guidelines provided.

134. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue to provide an annual, detailed, briefing to the Special Committee on the progress made in dealing with health-related issues in peacekeeping operations, and in this regard, looks forward to receiving, in advance of its next substantive session, information on the causes and rates of cardiovascular diseases, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, injuries and fatalities in the field, as well as the status of the implementation of the system for the standardized and streamlined reporting of medical data, across United Nations peacekeeping missions, to include, inter alia, repatriation and mortality data.

135. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Medical Services Division to extend its electronic medical records and occupational health management system, EarthMed, to authorized medical staff, and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to continue the process of consolidation, standardization, and streamlining of medical data.

136. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to develop guidelines and policies on occupational health, as one possible means of reducing illness and injuries, and enhancing the safety and well-being of peacekeeping personnel in the field.

9. Quick-impact projects

137. The Special Committee welcomes the implementation of quick-impact projects by peacekeeping operations and continues to recognize the important contribution they make to the successful implementation of mandates by addressing the immediate needs of local populations and building confidence in, and support for, peacekeeping missions, their mandates and the peace processes. The Special Committee recognizes that quick-impact projects play a key role in strengthening the link between missions and local populations and in accomplishing their objectives, and that their implementation should take into account the situation and needs on the ground.

138. The Special Committee calls for the full implementation of section XVIII of General Assembly resolution 61/276, and stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of both mission planning and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

139. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of coordination with humanitarian and development partners to avoid duplication and overlap of

activities between peacekeeping missions and humanitarian and development partners in the field.

140. The Special Committee further appreciates the voluntary and additional contributions of contingents from troop- and police-contributing countries in funding projects in peacekeeping missions.

141. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that selection procedures for quick-impact projects be made more flexible and be addressed, as much as possible, at the field level, under the control of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. It emphasizes the need for these projects to be planned and managed in the most effective manner possible.

142. The Special Committee notes that the Secretariat was to initiate a review of the Policy Directive for Quick-Impact Projects, issued on 12 February 2007, and requests it to conduct this review taking into account the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 61/276. Based on the important role that quick-impact projects have had in peacekeeping operations in recent years, the Special Committee suggests that it would be useful to consider the relevance of addressing in the review process the following aspects, among others: the period of implementation of projects; the possibility of applying quick-impact projects so as to create synergies with activities carried out by the United Nations country team and other relevant partners; the advantages of possible involvement of mission contingents, where appropriate, in the implementation of quick-impact projects, taking into account their existing expertise and equipment; and the need for expedited and flexible procedures for the implementation of projects.

10. Other mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians

143. The Special Committee reaffirms that all mandated peacekeeping tasks are to be implemented in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. Such implementation should be supported by a comprehensive peace process involving all stakeholders, underpinned by national ownership and the support of the international community. The Special Committee recognizes that there are a range of important mandated tasks, including, but not limited to, support to the restoration and extension of State authority, support to political processes, and protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee stresses the key importance of close cooperation with national authorities in the implementation of mandated tasks, as appropriate.

144. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the effective and full implementation of mandates and further stresses the need for close cooperation between the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping mandates are well defined and achievable. Accordingly, United Nations peacekeeping missions must be provided with all the necessary resources in a timely and efficient manner. These should include consolidated and mission-specific training in all related operational matters to enhance operational capacity, based on lessons learned and best practices from United Nations peacekeeping missions and Member States.

145. The Special Committee reaffirms that United Nations peacekeeping operations with protection of civilian mandates must be provided with the necessary resources to carry out that task, including, personnel, mobility assets and capabilities for information gathering. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to outline the resource and capability requirements related to the implementation of protection of civilian mandates, in consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries, to ensure an adequate correlation between mandated tasks and the resources provided to peacekeeping operations.

146. The Special Committee acknowledges that the protection of civilians is currently mandated in a number of United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee recognizes that protection of civilians is the primary responsibility of the host country and, accordingly, emphasizes that relevant peacekeeping missions with this mandate should conduct their tasks without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host Government to protect civilians. The Special Committee also acknowledges that the successful conduct of tasks relating to the protection of civilians under imminent threat of physical violence and within the effective areas of deployment, wherever a United Nations mandate exists, requires a coordinated response from all relevant mission components. The Special Committee requests that peacekeeping missions with protection of civilian mandates develop comprehensive protection strategies incorporated in the overall mission implementation plans and contingency plans, in consultation with the host Government, local authorities, troop- and police-contributing countries, and other relevant actors.

147. The Special Committee appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to provide Member States with the input to enhance common understanding regarding the implementation of protection of civilian mandates by relevant United Nations peacekeeping missions, including through the non-papers "Lessons Learned Note on the Protection of Civilians" and "Draft Operational Concept on Protection of Civilians", bearing in mind that these do not create legal obligations for Member States or their contingents. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to engage with Member States, host countries, regional organizations and troop- and police-contributing countries to further advance in this endeavour.

148. The Special Committee reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to provide detailed information for its consideration, based on lessons learned, on concepts of operations and the provision of resources, in existing peacekeeping missions regarding the mandate of protection of civilians, and requests an assessment of their adequacy in effectively achieving this mandated task. The Special Committee further requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals to improve the ability of existing peacekeeping missions to respond to situations adversely affecting civilians, including all the necessary logistical support and training required for troop-contributing countries.

149. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to develop a strategic framework containing elements and parameters for mission-specific strategies to guide senior mission leadership in elaborating a comprehensive protection strategy aligned with the mission's concept of operations.

150. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of improving planning processes as well as training, and requests the Secretariat to develop, as appropriate,

training modules for all mandated tasks, including the protection of civilians, for peacekeeping personnel, including senior mission leadership before and during deployment, based on lessons learned from past and existing peacekeeping missions and case analysis.

151. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the mission interacting closely with the host Government, local authorities and the local population in order to raise awareness and understanding of its protection of civilian mandates and activities. To this end, the Special Committee requests peacekeeping operations with such mandates to continue engaging, through relevant mission components and in close coordination with national authorities, on public information and outreach strategies, in line with Security Council resolution 1894 (2009).

H. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

152. The Special Committee underlines the need for full and effective implementation of the provisions contained in Security Council resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001) so as to utilize optimally those mechanisms to forge a stronger relationship between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries.

153. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in the military tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure which would have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, so as to enable troop-contributing countries to give their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands.

I. Triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the troop- and police-contributing countries

154. The Special Committee underlines the need to enhance the relationship between those who plan, mandate and manage United Nations peacekeeping operations and those who implement the mandates of those operations. Troop- and police-contributing countries should be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of United Nations peacekeeping operations so that the experience and expertise of the troop- and police-contributing countries can assist the Security Council in making appropriate, effective and timely decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations. This will also have a positive impact on the operations of national contingents.

155. The Special Committee underlines the importance of developing the triangular cooperation between troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council on the challenges of peacekeeping. The Special Committee stresses the need to regularly assess through consultations between the troop- and police-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council the strength and composition of the peacekeeping operations and the implementation of their mandates, with a view to making the necessary adjustments, where appropriate, according to progress achieved or changing circumstances on the ground.

156. The Special Committee also underlines the importance of interaction between potential troop- and police-contributing countries and the Secretariat in the early stages of planning, and requests the Secretariat to produce predeployment threat assessments and make them available to potential troop- and police-contributing countries. The Special Committee encourages reconnaissance visits of potential troop- and police-contributing countries to new missions before presenting their pledges to those missions.

157. The Special Committee welcomes the organization by the Presidency of the Security Council of open and inclusive thematic debates on the issues of peacekeeping and stresses the importance of optimal participation of troop- and police-contributing countries in those debates.

158. The Special Committee underlines the importance of better interaction between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop- and police-contributing countries and welcomes the progress already achieved in this sense.

159. The Special Committee acknowledges the note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) and the Presidential Statement of 5 August 2009 (S/PRST/2009/24) and recommends making full use of the consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries in order to involve them in all stages of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, including at the request of troop- and police-contributing countries, and in particular in advance of the renewal or mandating of an operation by the Security Council so that the views of troop- and police-contributing countries can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process.

160. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to meet reporting deadlines and circulate copies of the reports of the Secretary-General in all official languages on specific United Nations peacekeeping operations and encourages the Secretariat to organize regular meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries, ideally one week prior to Security Council consultations on mandate renewals. The Special Committee reiterates the necessity for troop- and police-contributing countries to be provided with comprehensive briefings on a regular basis on the situation of each peacekeeping operation. This will enable troop- and police-contributing countries to prepare properly for the meeting and participate more fully, including in the event of a serious incident.

161. The Special Committee recognizes the efforts by the Security Council to hold private meetings with troop- and police-contributing countries in a more timely manner and encourages those countries to participate actively in the meetings, including by providing assessments and feedback from their troops and personnel on the ground.

162. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts made by the Secretariat in order to respond rapidly to requests for information by troop- and police-contributing countries on the latest developments in current operations. It encourages further improvements in that regard.

163. The Special Committee underlines the necessity for the Secretariat to provide the Security Council, troop- and police-contributing countries and other key stakeholders with an early assessment of capabilities, force generation and logistical

resource requirements prior to the launching of a new operation or a major reconfiguration of a current peacekeeping operation.

164. The Special Committee stresses the importance of regular updating of the planning documents by the Secretariat to ensure consistency with mandates of the Secretariat updating all planning documents as often as necessary and informing troop- and police-contributing countries about those updates, and requests the Secretariat to adopt a results-based approach on planning as appropriate, and consequently inform them.

165. The Special Committee takes note with satisfaction of the establishment of the Peacekeeping Resource Hub and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to redouble its efforts to incorporate the relevant documentation into the database and ensure that the content is updated regularly.

166. The Special Committee believes that predeployment visits for military contributions and formed police units are an important step in the process of force generation. To make better use of the current practice, the Special Committee recommends that guidelines for such visits be improved and measures taken to ensure that they are adequately performed.

J. Cooperation with regional arrangements

167. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and capacity of regional arrangements or agencies allow.

168. The Special Committee recognizes the valuable work of those regional arrangements or agencies in supporting United Nations peacekeeping and in enhancing the common ability of their Member States to contribute to peacekeeping operations, including through the development of capabilities.

169. The Special Committee welcomes all positive developments in the field of cooperation with the regional arrangements or agencies and encourages the Secretariat to further strengthen those linkages, such as the one described in detail in section K below, covering cooperation with the African Union.

170. The Special Committee notes the Secretariat's efforts in finding new avenues to draw on partnerships with the regional arrangements that may increasingly contribute to United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee notes that these efforts have helped enhance contributions in some peacekeeping operations where cooperation with regional arrangements has been complementary in the force generation of the United Nations.

171. The Special Committee recognizes the growing importance of partnership and cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in planning and conducting United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to develop exercise and training policies with these regional arrangements aimed at improving interoperability and to enhance cooperation between the United Nations and those regional arrangements.

172. The Special Committee also requests the Secretariat to identify the most important lessons learned from the cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements, including the African Union and European Union in peacekeeping issues and to include them in its reports and recommendations.

K. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities

173. The Special Committee underlines the need for a strategic and effective relationship between the United Nations and the African Union in the context of peacekeeping operations in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and re-emphasizes the importance of increasing and enhancing the capacity of the African Union in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation and peacekeeping operations. In this regard, there is a need for coherent and effective coordination of support provided by multiple stakeholders to the African Union in the field of peacekeeping capacity-building.

174. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of implementing the joint action plan for United Nations support to the African Union in peacekeeping in the short, medium and long terms, and the 10-year plan for capacity-building. The Special Committee reiterates the request that the established multidisciplinary African Union peacekeeping support team continue to serve as a coordinating point for all issues in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations related to cooperation with the African Union and to brief the Committee regularly on its functioning and mandate, particularly with regard to the question of providing much-needed support to the regional and subregional capacity. In this connection, the Special Committee stresses the importance of strengthening the African Union Peace and Security Architecture. The Special Committee recognizes the potential contribution of the African Standby Force to peace and security in Africa.

175. The Special Committee underlines the need to identify ways to address the requirements of the African Union in the context of peacekeeping at the continental level. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the report prepared by the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations (A/63/666-S/2008/813) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/359-S/2009/470) and recommends the enhancement of an effective partnership with the African Union to improve the planning, deployment and management of African peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee recognizes the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of peacekeeping operations undertaken under a United Nations mandate.

176. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to strengthen training and logistics in Africa that are both crucial sectors for effective and secure peacekeeping. This will further enhance cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peacekeeping and the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa, thereby supporting capacity-building of the African Union in the field of peacekeeping operations and ensuring cost-effectiveness. The Special Committee therefore stresses the importance of close coordination between all international partners and donors supporting African Union capacity-building, including through enhancing the effectiveness of existing training centres in Africa.

L. Developing stronger United Nations field support arrangements

177. The Special Committee remains committed to the consideration of any new proposals conducive to the enhancement of the United Nations capacity to fulfil its responsibilities in the field of peacekeeping, in accordance with its mandate to comprehensively review the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. In this regard, the Special Committee, regretting its late publication, takes note of the report of the Secretary-General regarding the Global Field Support Strategy (A/64/633). The Special Committee underlines its role of conducting a thorough examination of the operational impacts and looks forward to the consideration of the proposed Strategy by the Fifth Committee, according to established procedures.

178. The Special Committee recognizes the challenges faced by the Organization in providing logistical, administrative and information and communications technology support for peacekeeping operations and notes the Strategy's intent to enable timelier mission start-up and to improve support to mission operations. In this regard, the Special Committee emphasizes that an integrated approach would be necessary to the successful implementation of the Strategy. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to elaborate on the proposed strategy in close consultation with Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing countries, and, in considering the impact on operational effectiveness, the Committee stresses the need for clear management frameworks, reporting lines and accountability arrangements that focus on responsiveness to mission requirements.

179. The Special Committee notes the concept of modularization and its relation to key facilities and capabilities required for mission start-up and to enable the rapid development of infrastructure to support deploying contingents. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to work in close consultation with troop- and police-contributing countries in developing the concept of modularization, building on existing capacities and to report back to the Special Committee by end-December 2010.

180. The Special Committee takes note of the global service delivery model of the proposed strategy as a means of providing support services to field missions and addressing safety and security challenges for the United Nations personnel in higher-threat areas. The Special Committee looks forward to discussions on the proposed model in relation to its operational impacts on peacekeeping missions.

181. In order to enable discussions with troop- and police-contributing countries, the Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide informal bi-monthly briefings, starting in July 2010, on the proposed Strategy in all its operational aspects.

182. The Special Committee acknowledges the importance of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Working Group in 2011 as well as the importance of the dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat in this regard. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to establish as a minimum quarterly informal briefings to all Member States during 2010 to address the preparations for the Working Group.

183. The Special Committee highlights the importance of providing high-quality field service to Member States, in particular troop- and police-contributing

countries, and requests the Secretariat to continue to improve its responsive service culture.

M. Best practices

184. The Special Committee has noted the launch of the website of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, entitled "Peacekeeping Resource Hub: Policy, Lessons Learned and Training for the Peacekeeping Community". The Special Committee stresses the need for this website to enhance global peacekeeping capacity by providing the peacekeeping community with timely access to relevant training standards, materials and tools, as well as relevant guidance documents and for these documents to be translated into the official languages of the United Nations, as necessary, and those most commonly used by Member States. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to provide a briefing before the end of 2010 updating the Committee on the progress made in translating these materials.

185. The Special Committee, bearing in mind that major crises, including natural disasters, can have strong effects on United Nations peacekeeping operations, requests the Secretariat to provide the Special Committee with a report on the likely impact that such events may have on missions and how the United Nations is able to respond to them, in particular, through contingency planning.

N. Training

186. The Special Committee reiterates the shared responsibility of the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat in providing adequately trained personnel with the required professional background, expertise and capabilities according to United Nations standards. In that regard, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to utilize training and assessment teams regularly before deployments, as they have proven to be valuable tools both to detect shortfalls and assist in overcoming them. To this end, the Special Committee reaffirms that explicit and comprehensive training modules need to be improved and provided to Member States.

187. The Special Committee, taking into account that the increasing complexity of peacekeeping operations and the continuously rising demand for resources necessitate further cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States, including provision of training opportunities and assistance to new and emerging troop-contributing countries, encourages the Secretariat to facilitate capacity-building efforts through both the application of the "train the trainers" concept and the best use of available resources, including extensive capacity-building programmes led by multilateral and bilateral actors.

188. Recalling paragraph 180 of its 2008 report (A/62/19), the Special Committee further urges the Secretariat to translate all peacekeeping training materials into the six United Nations official languages to ensure wide use of these materials by all Member States.

189. The Special Committee recalling paragraph 147 of its 2009 report (A/63/19) with regard to the major findings of the strategic training needs assessment, requests

the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to identify the critical expertise and training required for peacekeepers. The Special Committee requests that such findings be presented to the Special Committee by September 2010.

190. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Integrated Training Service concerning the development of a set of minimum training standards and training modules, and welcomes the updating of these training materials with information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and HIV/AIDS. The Special Committee requests a briefing prior to the dissemination of these training materials.

191. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure the provision of adequate and updated gender-sensitivity training material to national and regional peacekeeping training centres.

192. The Special Committee supports the efforts of Member States, and regional arrangements within their mandates, to enhance the capacity of peacekeeping personnel at peacekeeping training centres, and encourages Member States to provide further support for these efforts. The Special Committee also supports the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in providing those peacekeeping training centres, as well as national training focal points, with the necessary guidance for training United Nations peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, the Special Committee looks forward to receiving a comprehensive briefing on the Department's training guidance materials for those centres, and revised procedures and criteria for United Nations recognition of the centres' courses. The Special Committee highlights the importance of a more expedited process in the resumption of the recognition process.

193. The Special Committee recalls paragraph 151 of its report (A/63/19) and reiterates its requests to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for an update on the progress made on the standardized training modules for potential senior mission leaders and a training package on the integrated mission planning process.

194. The Special Committee notes the various initiatives under way to enhance predeployment training capacity for police personnel and to facilitate bilateral training assistance for predeployment when requested by Member States. The Special Committee renews its call for the finalization, in consultation with Member States, of training standards, deployment guidelines for formed police units and the finalization of specialized training modules for police so that future formed police units are fully effective upon deployment.

195. Recalling paragraph 154 of its 2009 report (A/63/19), in which the Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to evaluate the senior mission administration and resource training programme, including the post-course analysis of each programme, and the progress of the integration of the conduct of the programme into the Integrated Training Service, the Special Committee reiterates that it looks forward to receiving the findings of the evaluation before the institutionalization and funding of the programme.

196. In order to ensure that the process of recruitment and selection is fair and provides equal opportunity, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to translate all peacekeeping training materials into all official United Nations languages. This will also help to broaden the base of contributors.

197. The Special Committee notes the sustained increase in the police dimension in a number of missions, and further stresses the need to address shortfalls in standing force requirement in the field of police subject to consultations with Member States. The Special Committee underscores the need to maintain an appropriate support and guidance capacity at United Nations Headquarters in order to ensure adequate oversight and guidance to the field and to complement the work of the Integrated Training Service. With regard to the growing expertise required in the peacekeeping missions, the Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to recommend measures to address the training gap.

198. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing need for e-learning on peacekeeping, which must continue to be provided to serve the needs of the peacekeeping community. The Committee further recognizes that e-learning provides a very economical, efficient, and effective means to provide standard training to the widely distributed population of military peacekeepers, police, and civilians.

199. The Special Committee welcomes the free and multilingual delivery of expert-developed e-learning on peacekeeping provided by the Peace Operations Training Institute, and encourages Member States to support the creation of additional courses and translations. The Special Committee further welcomes the Institute's E-Learning for African Peacekeepers and E-Learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean, made possible through voluntary contributions. The Special Committee also welcomes the integrated distance learning programmes provided directly to the peacekeeping missions by the Institute. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Institute to actively work together to promote existing e-learning programmes, and highlights the importance of ensuring the use and development of these materials, and their dissemination to all mission personnel.

200. The Special Committee welcomes the partnership between the Peace Operations Training Institute and the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, which enables students to earn an Executive Master of Arts in peace operations through a blending of the Institute's e-learning and the University's classroom courses. The Special Committee urges the University and the Institute to offer as many scholarships as possible for peacekeepers from developing countries and welcomes the support of Member States.

201. The Special Committee, while recognizing the important role currently being played by non-United Nations partners in the provision of peacekeeping training, underscores the primary role of the Division of Policy Evaluation and Training, together with Member States, in developing peacekeeping training standards and advice in the implementation of standards by training partners. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to engage with the Peace Operations Training Institute, UNITAR, Member States and other training partners to ensure the continued strengthening of coordination in the peacekeeping training field and to avoid overlap and duplication.

O. Personnel

202. The Special Committee recognizes the efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with regard to

balanced recruiting of staff in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts. The Special Committee reiterates that, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, in the employment of staff the paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Special Committee notes that the gender perspective should continue to be pursued in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

203. The Special Committee believes that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and peacekeeping missions should also take into account the contributions of Member States. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure a fair representation of troop-contributing countries when selecting personnel for such staff positions.

204. The Special Committee recalls section I, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 55/238; paragraph 11 of resolution 56/241; paragraph 19 of resolution 61/279; paragraph 71 of resolution 64/243; and requests the Secretary-General to ensure proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

205. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 2 of section X of General Assembly resolution 63/250, expresses concern at the continuing low proportion of women in the Secretariat, in particular the low proportion of women from developing countries, especially at the senior levels, and stresses that, in the recruitment process, the continuing lack of representation or the underrepresentation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries, should be taken into account and that those women should be accorded equal opportunities, in full conformity with relevant resolutions.

206. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 7 of section IX of General Assembly resolution 63/250, reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to ensure, at the senior and policymaking levels of the Secretariat, equitable representation of Member States, especially those with inadequate representation at those levels, and to continue to include relevant information thereon in future reports to the Special Committee.

207. The Special Committee remains concerned about the high number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions, and reiterates its requests to the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment and approval process of personnel, including senior mission leadership.

208. The Special Committee underlines that, in the selection of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other posts of senior mission leadership, the leadership competencies of the candidates are and should continue to be one among other prominent considerations, in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations.

209. The Special Committee recalls section II of General Assembly resolution 63/250, and reiterates its requests to the Secretary-General to swiftly implement the decisions on contractual arrangements and harmonization of conditions of service, as a means of dealing with the high vacancy issue in peacekeeping operations.

210. In the context of human resources management and the ongoing reform in this area, the Special Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of section VIII of its resolution 63/250, requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals on a strategy to implement an efficient and effective training and professional development programme. The Special Committee supports the exploration of this issue, with a view to improving retention of valuable staff in the United Nations peacekeeping bodies.

211. The Special Committee recognizes the continuing need for competent civilian components in peacekeeping operations, and notes that the Secretary-General, in his report on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304) underlines the need for improved mobilization of relevant resources.

212. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 6 of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/296, requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure greater use of national staff in peacekeeping operations, when feasible. The Special Committee underscores the advantages of local recruitment in peacekeeping missions, and their positive impact on the relations with the host society.

213. The Special Committee recalls that English and French are the two working languages of the Secretariat. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of all peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, it encourages the Secretary-General to take steps to employ staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support who are competent in the working languages of the Secretariat.

214. The Special Committee acknowledges that the interaction of United Nations military, police and civilian personnel with the local population is necessary for the efficient and successful action of peacekeeping operations. To that end, language skills are required and shall constitute an important element of the selection and training processes. Therefore, the Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to make further efforts in recruiting staff and experts on mission with language skills that are relevant to the particular mission area where they are to be deployed, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations. In particular, good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account as an essential asset during these processes.

215. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat that staff sent to United Nations field operations to conduct examinations for experts on mission, in particular examinations in language and driving skills, are to be certified and adhere to examination criteria based on the standard United Nations programmes.

216. The Special Committee notes the efforts made by the Police Division and the Office of Military Affairs in recruiting French-speaking peacekeepers, especially police officers, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations.

217. The Special Committee is concerned that the United Nations death and disability claims process for peacekeeping personnel is overly cumbersome, lengthy and lacking in transparency. The Special Committee notes also that discrepancies exist between the compensation benefits provided to experts on mission and those provided to members of contingents. The Special Committee in this context recalls section X of General Assembly resolution 61/276 and requests the Secretary-

General, in close consultation with troop-contributing countries, to prepare a new proposal to the General Assembly on the review of death and disability benefits.

P. Financial issues

218. The Special Committee recalls all provisions of resolutions, in particular paragraph 1 of resolution 61/279, in which the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The Special Committee also recalls rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

219. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

220. The Special Committee expresses concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to troop-contributing countries, which may adversely affect the capacity of this important tool for United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee also notes that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing and closed missions, going back more than a decade. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to define practical modalities with Member States in a situation of arrears to address this exceptional circumstance and to inform Member States at the earliest opportunity of progress made in this endeavour.

221. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements, mindful of the adverse effects of such delays on the capacities of troop-contributing countries to sustain their participation.

222. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure speedy and appropriate follow-up on compensation claims submitted by troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries in cases of illness, disability or death attributable to service. The Special Committee also stresses that the issue of payment of compensation for these cases needs to be dealt with as a priority.

223. The financial contribution by States Members of the United Nations is essential to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations and timely and unconditional payments are important. The Special Committee recognizes that the views of contributors other than troop-contributing countries should also be taken into account, as appropriate. The Special Committee stresses the importance of holding regular, routine consultations between all stakeholders and the main peacekeeping decision-making bodies.

224. The Special Committee welcomes the fact that the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment agreed to its recommendations by consensus. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of effective and transparent inspections of contingent-owned equipment. The Special Committee acknowledges

that troop/police costs have not been reviewed since 2002 and requests the Secretary-General to implement General Assembly resolution 63/285.

225. The Special Committee expresses its concern at the delays experienced in housing peacekeeping personnel in appropriate accommodation that provides adequate protection against the elements in all missions, and requests the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to improve the situation pursuant to the contingent-owned equipment manual.

Q. Other matters

226. The Special Committee recognizes the vital role played by military and police personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations and that, currently, approximately 70 per cent of uniformed personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations are military personnel contributed by "troop-contributing countries" and the remainder, police personnel, contributed by "police-contributing countries". The Special Committee further acknowledges that the role of troops and police, and likewise, the needs of troop-contributing countries and police-contributing countries can also be distinct. Accordingly, the Special Committee uses in its report the terms "troop-contributing countries" and "police-contributing countries" singularly or concurrently, depending on the context.

227. The Special Committee notes the current challenges to peacekeeping operations as well as the related, ever increasing range, complexity and importance of peacekeeping issues it needs to address. The Special Committee, as the only forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, regrets the fact that documents provided for its substantive sessions are not submitted in a timely manner. This impacts negatively on the working methods of the C-34 and in this regard the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to provide documentation intended for discussions during its formal sessions to be available, in line with the six-week rule of issuance of documentation in the six official languages in order to continue and further improve its work, and make it as relevant and effective as possible in the light of the above.

228. Member States are encouraged to engage actively in informal consultations, well in advance of its substantive sessions in order to effectively address challenges faced in all areas of United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee further encourages its members to hold an informal dialogue with a view to enhancing the work of its Working Group, without prejudice to the rules and procedures of the General Assembly and its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 1965, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Committee and other members of the Bureau.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2010 session

The Special Committee currently consists of the following 145 members: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Liberia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Holy See, African Union, European Union, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Court, International Organization of la Francophonie, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

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